THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
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WORK OF MASTER PRINTMAKER JACQUES CALLOT ON VIEW AT THE CLEVELAND ART MUSEUM

198 prints, executed by the French master printmaker Jacques Callot (1592-1635), will be on view April 6 through May 2 in the prints and drawings corridor of The Cleveland Museum of Art. The exhibit demonstrates the imagination, skill and immense variety in Callot's work and is touring six museums in the United States and Canada under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institution.

The prints are lent from the collections of Rudolf Baumfeld and Lessing Rosenwald at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Mr. Baumfeld has collected almost 1200 of the 1428 known Callot etchings.

With the few notable exceptions of Dürer, Urs, Graf, Altdorfer and Hirschvogel, Callot is considered the first independent etcher in history as well as one of the major figures in the development of the technique of etching. Heretofore the art had been the exclusive domain of armorers and goldsmiths.

Callot taught himself the method of "trait simple", the ability to render figures with the power of a single line, rather than with the usual technique of cross-hatching. His subject material most often portrayed the oddities he observed in contemporary life around him and he set them down with a genius's wit, clarity and lack of pretentiousness.

Callot was raised at the affluent court of Nancy in the Duchy of Lorraine, where his father was an archer in the service of the Duke. In 1607 he was apprenticed by his father to the studio of Demenge Crozq, a Nancy goldsmith. About three years later he left for Rome where he learned the art of the burin, using recognized engravings, paintings and sculpture as models.

In his last years, Callot turned to making religious prints and also the large and small series of the Miseries of War, perhaps the outcome of the influence upon him of the Thirty Years' War and the plague.

An illustrated catalog with text accompanies the exhibition.

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